(b) whether it is a fact that this could have arrested drop-out rates of students;

(c) if so, what is the status and allocation given to sports at the primary and secondary level;

(d) whether the infrastructure of sports at the school level is not sufficient; and

(e) if so; the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sports and games are integral part of the subject Health and Physical Education which has been made compulsory from primary to secondary stage and is prescribed as an optional subject at the senior secondary stage in the schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and in almost all the States. Health and Physical fitness are among the key determinants for the overall development of the child and influence enrolment, retention and school completion rates significantly. This has been reiterated in the National Curriculum Framework-2005.

(d) and (e) Affiliation bye-laws of CBSE prescribe minimum requirement of infrastrcuture for physical education, States prescribe their own norms.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a flagship programme of Government of India for the promotion of Universalisation of Elementary Education, recognises the importance of games, sports and skill development for improving quality of education at elementary and higher level, and promotes joyful, activity based learning by using a wide range of games in and outside classrooms.

Blueprint for setting up an IIT

1726. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alumni of seven IITs are drawing up a blueprint to set up a new IIT in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what would be the location of this new IIT and what would be its sources of funding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) are governed by The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961. New IITs can only be set up as per that Act.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Children in Government schools

1727. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 85 per cent of children in the country receive education in Government primary schools;

(b) if not, the details in this regard and whether it is also a fact that education standard in the Government primary schools is not found upto the mark;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps decided to be taken by Government to fix annual targets in coming years, for improving education standard in the country's primary schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) As per District Information System of Education (DISE) data for 2006-07 of the total children enrolled in primary schools 82.50% children are in Government schools.

In XIth Five Year Plan focus of primary education is on quality. Steps for improving the quality of education in Government schools undertaken under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan include *inter-alia*, recruitment of 8.81 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratios, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, free distribution of textbooks for primary and upper primary classes to SC, ST and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6360 Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and 681 4 Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) and remedial teaching for enhancing learning achievement.

Literacy among rural women

†1728. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the literacy among women in villages of the country is only four to five per cent;

(b) if so, whether programmes for upliftment of a large number of women, including Anganwadi Workers, are not running smoothly due to lack of literacy;

(c) if so, whether Government is formulating any meaningful plan for literacy among rural women; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. According to 2001 census, the rural female literacy rate in India is 46.1%.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, the Government is implementing various literacy and skill development programmes to improve the literacy rate amongst women.

Regulation of private universities

†1729. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that education has turned into business in the age of liberalisation;

†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*